

AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION:

Please replace paragraph [0024] with the following amended paragraph:

[0024] The body portion 20 of the cover member 16 is bowl-shaped having an end wall 36 and an inwardly-turned sidewall 38. The plurality of extensions or locking arrangements 24 are spaced circumferentially about and extend inwardly from the inner surface 23 of the ~~end wall 36~~ body portion 20 and are integrally molded therewith. Each extension 24 includes a plurality of flexibly resilient locking fingers 40 and a plurality of alignment fingers 42. Each locking finger 40 is provided with an inwardly-extending tab 44 located at the distal end 28 thereof. Each alignment finger 42 includes four cross ribs 45, including an inner rib 46, a pair of arcuately-shaped side ribs 48, and an outer rib 50. In the illustrated example, the inner rib 46 and the side ribs 48 extend further from the inner surface 23 than outer rib 50, thereby providing outer rib 50 with an end support wall 52.

Please replace paragraph [0025] with the following amended paragraph:

[0025] The connector members 30 of the locking ring 18 are interspaced by and integrally formed with a plurality of arcuately-shaped structural members or runners 54 that cooperate with the connector members 30 to provide the locking ring 18 with a substantially ring-shape. Each structural member 54 includes apertures 56 that extend therethrough, thereby reducing the material required in the construction thereof. Each connector member 30 is substantially tubularly-shaped and includes a body portion 57 and a plurality of flexibly resilient fingers 58 extending from the body portion 57. Each finger 58 includes an irregularity such as a tab 60 located at the distal end 34 thereof, and a tab 62 extending inwardly from an inner surface 64 of each finger 58. A plurality of locking tabs 66 or lips extend circumferentially about the body portion 57 and are spaced circumferentially about the body portion 57 so as to align with the locking fingers 40 of the cover member 16, as described below.

Please replace paragraph [0029] with the following amended paragraph:

[0029] Each connector member 30A includes a body portion 98 and a plurality of longitudinally-extending flexibly-resilient fingers 100 extending outwardly from the body portion 98. Each finger 100 includes an inwardly-extending irregularity such as a locking tab 102 and an alignment wall 104 extending inwardly from an inner surface 106 and having a stop wall 108 located at an end thereof. Each connector member 30A further includes an end wall 110 having a centrally-located aperture 112 extending therethrough.

Please replace paragraph [0031] with the following amended paragraph:

[0031] The reference numeral 10B (Figs. 9 and 10) generally designates yet another embodiment of the present invention having a cover member 16B and a connector member 30B. Since the cover member 16B and the connector member 30B are similar to the previously described cover member 16 and connector member 30, similar parts appearing in Figs. 5 and 6 and Figs. 9 and 10, respectively are represented by the same, corresponding reference numeral, except for the suffix "B" in the numerals of the latter. Each extension 24B includes a tubularly-shaped body portion 120 having a plurality of locking apertures 122 spaced circumferentially thereabout. Each extension 24B is preferably integrally molded with the body portion 20B of the cover member 16B. Each connector member 30B includes a proximal end 124 and a distal end 126 that are divided by a wall 128. The proximal end 124 of the connector member 30B includes a plurality of longitudinally-extending flexibly resilient fingers 130 each having an outwardly extending locking tab 132. The distal end 126 of each connector member 30B includes a plurality of longitudinally-extending flexibly resilient fingers 134 extending outwardly from a cylindrically-shaped body portion 135, each having an irregularity such as a locking tab 136 located at a distal end thereof, and an alignment wall 138 extending inwardly from an inner surface 140 of the corresponding finger 134. Each alignment wall 138 defines a stop wall 142 at an end thereof.

Please replace paragraph [0034] with the following amended paragraph:

[0034] The reference numeral 10C (Figs. 11 and 12) generally designates still yet another embodiment of the present invention having a cover member 16C and a plurality of connector members 30C. Since the wheel assembly 10E is similar to the previously described wheel assembly 10A, similar parts appearing in Figs. 7 and 8 and Figs. 11 and 12, respectively are represented by the same, corresponding reference numeral, except for the suffix "C" in the numerals of the latter. Each extension 24C includes a tubularly-shaped body portion 120C having a plurality of inwardly-extending locking grooves 144 spaced circumferentially thereabout. Each extension 24C is preferably integrally molded with the body portion 20C of the cover member 16C. Each connector member 30C includes a proximal end 124C and a distal end 126C that are divided by a wall 128C. The proximal end 124C of each connector member 30C includes a plurality of longitudinally-extending flexibly resilient fingers 130C each having a plurality of outwardly extending locking tabs 146. The distal end 126 of each connector member 30C includes a plurality of longitudinally-extending flexibly resilient fingers 134C extending outwardly from a body portion 135C and each having an irregularity such as a locking tab 136C located at a distal end thereof, and an alignment wall 138C extending inwardly from an inner surface 140C. Each alignment wall 138 defines a stop wall 142C at an end thereof.